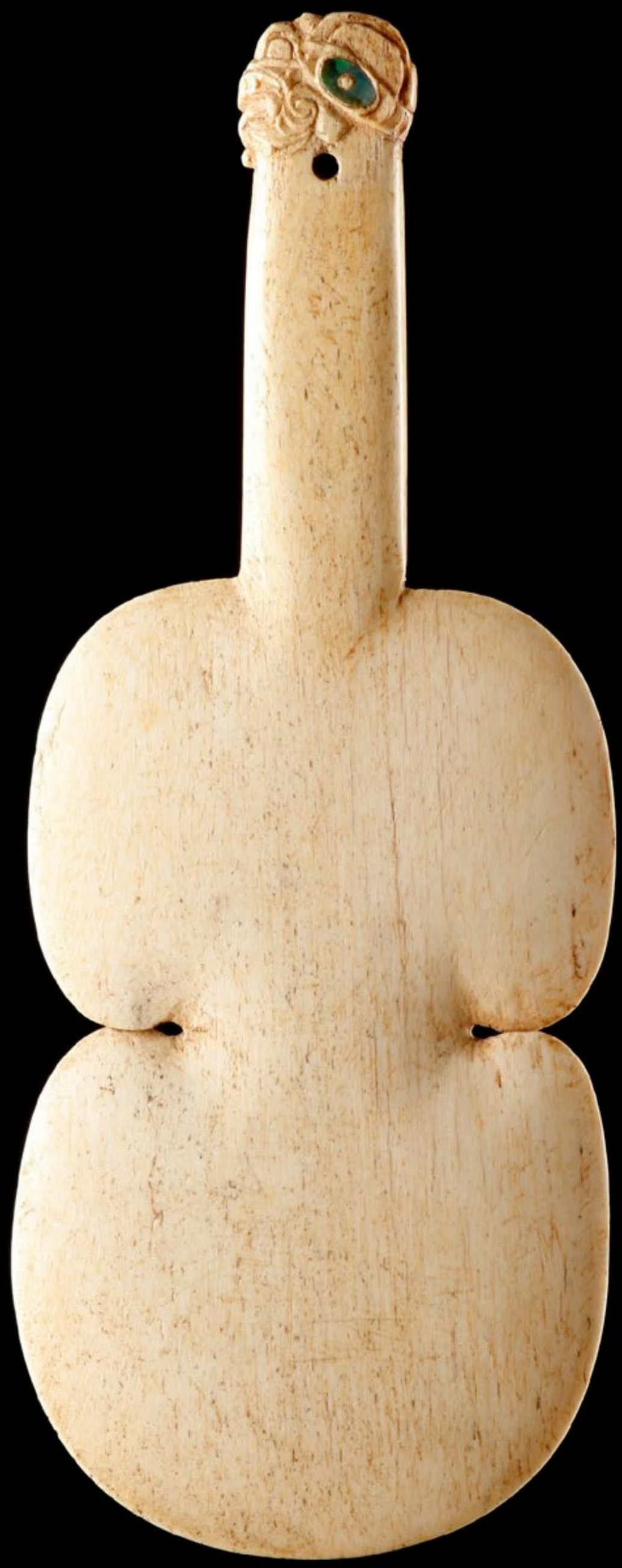
TRIBAL ART SOCIETY

Sunday
December 1st
2024



ONLINE CATALOGUE LXXXXIV

DECEMBER ISSUE

WHO WE ARE

The Tribal Art Society features an online catalogue every month listing quality works of Asian art that have been thoroughly vetted by our select members, who are the in-house experts.

By bringing together a group of trusted dealers specializing in Tribal art, our platform offers a unique collection of works of art that collectors will not find anywhere else online. To ensure the highest standards, gallery membership is by invitation only and determined by a selection committee.

/TribalArtSociety

Cover Image: Kotiate Paraoa .
Presented by Finch and Co on
p. 50

DECEMBER ARTWORKS

Pieces are published and changed each month. The objects are presented with a full description and corresponding dealer's contact information. Unlike auction sites or other platforms, we empower collectors to interact directly with the member dealers for enquiries and purchases by clicking on the e-mail adress.

In order to guarantee the quality of pieces available in the catalogues, objects are systematically validated by all our select mebers, who are the in-house experts. Collectors are therefore encouraged to decide and buy with complete confidence. In addition to this, the Tribal Art Society proposes a seven-day full money back return policy should the buyer not feel totally satisfied with a purchase.

Feel free to ask the price if the artwork is listed with a price on request.

01

ASHANTI VESSEL

Large lid of a kuduo.
Ashanti
Ghana
19th century
Diam.: 18 cm
Height: 15 cm
Provenance:
Collected by Sir Walter James Hunt-Grubb during his time in Ghana .
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

Adam Prout
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A large heavy lid of a kuduo figuring a Leopard with prey and hunter.

There is an old Label to the inside that reads 'bronze pot cover brought from Abyssinia? by rd Sir Walter Hunt Grubb? given to Sir William Bousfield ?'

Sir Walter James Hunt-Grubb 1833-1922 was Commander in chief, Cape of Good Hope station and he also served in the Anglo-Ashanti wars and had command of HMS Tamar at the Battle of Amoaful.

There are several related kuduo in the British Museum, museum number Af1903,0717.1.a and Af1978,22.146

02

HIMALAYAN STOOL

Stool
Himalayas
19th century
Metal, Dark used patina.
Height: 32 cm
Width: 66 cm
Provenance:
U.K. collection
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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A wild stool an a bit of a mystery? It appears to be from from Northern India or the Himilayas but could also be Pakistan or Afghanistan?

Formed from one piece and inlaid with various pieces of metal and old coins (some missing) Some of the coins appear to be early rupees. The seat is carved with figures and dogs.

03

DAYAK *ABAN*

Baby Carrier Talisman
Dayak
Borneo
19th / very early 20th century
Beads, fiber
20 cm x 22,5 cm
Price on request

Aban are beaded panels with powerful designs that are attached to the back of Dayak baby carriers, *ba,* that serve as talismans to protect the child from malevolent ghosts that might be sneaking up from the rear. This *aban* is an especially early example, featuring old fat glass trade beads and an especially beautiful graphic motif. The panel is sewn down on a black cloth.

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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04

PAPUAN HEAD

Substitute head
Papua New Guinea
18th-19th century
Wood
22,5 (L.) x 18 cm (W.)
Provenance:
Collected by Thomas Schulze-Westrum in the 1960s
Collection Rinck Hollnberger, Munich (purchased in the 1980s or 1990s)
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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The heads of humans and of animals such as crocodiles and pigs formerly played integral roles in the ceremonial life of Papuan Gulf peoples, who considered the heads to be vessels of life-giving supernatural power. Within men's ceremonial houses, human skulls were displayed, together with sacred images such as spirit boards or *gope*, by the members of each clan in a specially constructed clan shrine. However, not all heads required the death of an enemy. In some areas, heads made from wood or other materials appear to have had powers equal to actual ones. In contrast to skulls, the facial features of wood heads were sometimes depicted as they appeared in life.

This example comes from the Wapo Creek area, where wood heads appear to have been used interchangeably with actual skulls. When headhunting was abolished by Australian colonial authorities in the early 1900s, Wapo Creek peoples were encouraged to substitute animal skulls. However, they refused, preferring instead to use wood heads like this one.

For a comparable skull in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, see: access.no. 1979.206.1580.

05

ARROW SHAFT STRAIGHTENER

Exceptional arrow shaft straightener carved as a stylized human figure
Old Bering Sea, Bering Strait
200 B.C. – 500 A.D.
Mineralized walrus tusk. The surface has been professionally stabilized
Height: 11,9 cm
Price: 6.500 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

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06

AUSTRALIAN HEAD BAND

Head-band
Lower Murray River, South Australia
19th century
Fiber, resin, Lower incisors of the Macropodidae sp., and pigment
27,5 cm (w/o strings) x 4,7 cm (w/o teeth)
Provenance:
Obtained with items collected at the end of the 19th century
Publication:
Meyer, Anthony JP. :
WALKABOUT - the Early Art of the Australian Aborigines/l'Art Ancien des Aborigènes d'Australie
A Selection of Early Eskimo Art/ et une Sélection d'art Ancien Eskimo. Galerie Meyer, Paris. 2012, p. 37, fig. 52.
See a comparable example in the National Museum of Victoria, Inv. X1576
Price: 3.200 euros

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07

BENIN HEAD

Commemorative head of a dignitary
Benin Kingdom, Nigeria
Early 20th century
Carved wood and metal
Height: 39 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, Paris
TAS exclusive price: 3.800 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Julien Flak
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In terms of ritual use, according to Kate Ezra (see "Royal Art of Benin", New York 1992, p. 29), representations of the head are a major feature of Benin art, just as the head itself is a central focus of the rituals. Local traditions state that cast brass heads were introduced for royal ancestors during the reign of Oba Oguola, the 5th Oba, or king, in the current dynasty, who probably reigned in the late 14th century.

Cast brass heads were placed on altars dedicated to each of the past Obas of Benin, while heads in wood were placed on the ancestral shrines of chiefs. One of a new Oba's first responsibilities was to establish an altar commemorating his father and to commission brass-casters and ivory carvers to create objects to decorate it. Such an altar is a tribute to the achievements of the deceased father, and a point of contact with his spirit.

08

CHANCAY MASK

Mask
Chancay, Peru
11th- 15th century
Wood and shells
Height: 25 cm
Provenance:
Private french collection
TAS exclusive price: 3.500 euros

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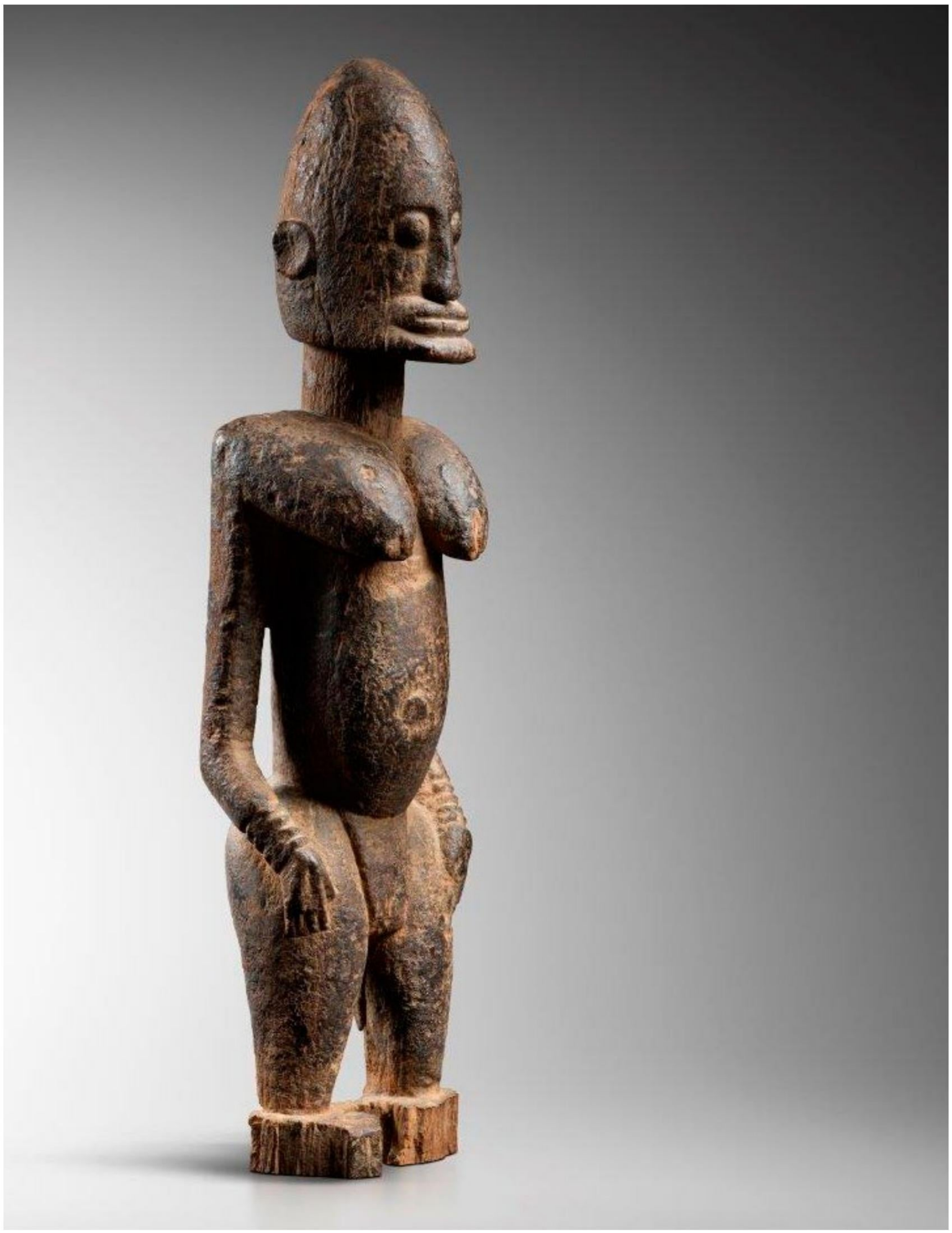

09

DOGON SCULPTURE

Nduleri sculpture
Dogon
Mali
Wood
Height: 48,5 cm
Provenance:
Private french collection
TAS exclusive price: 6.000 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

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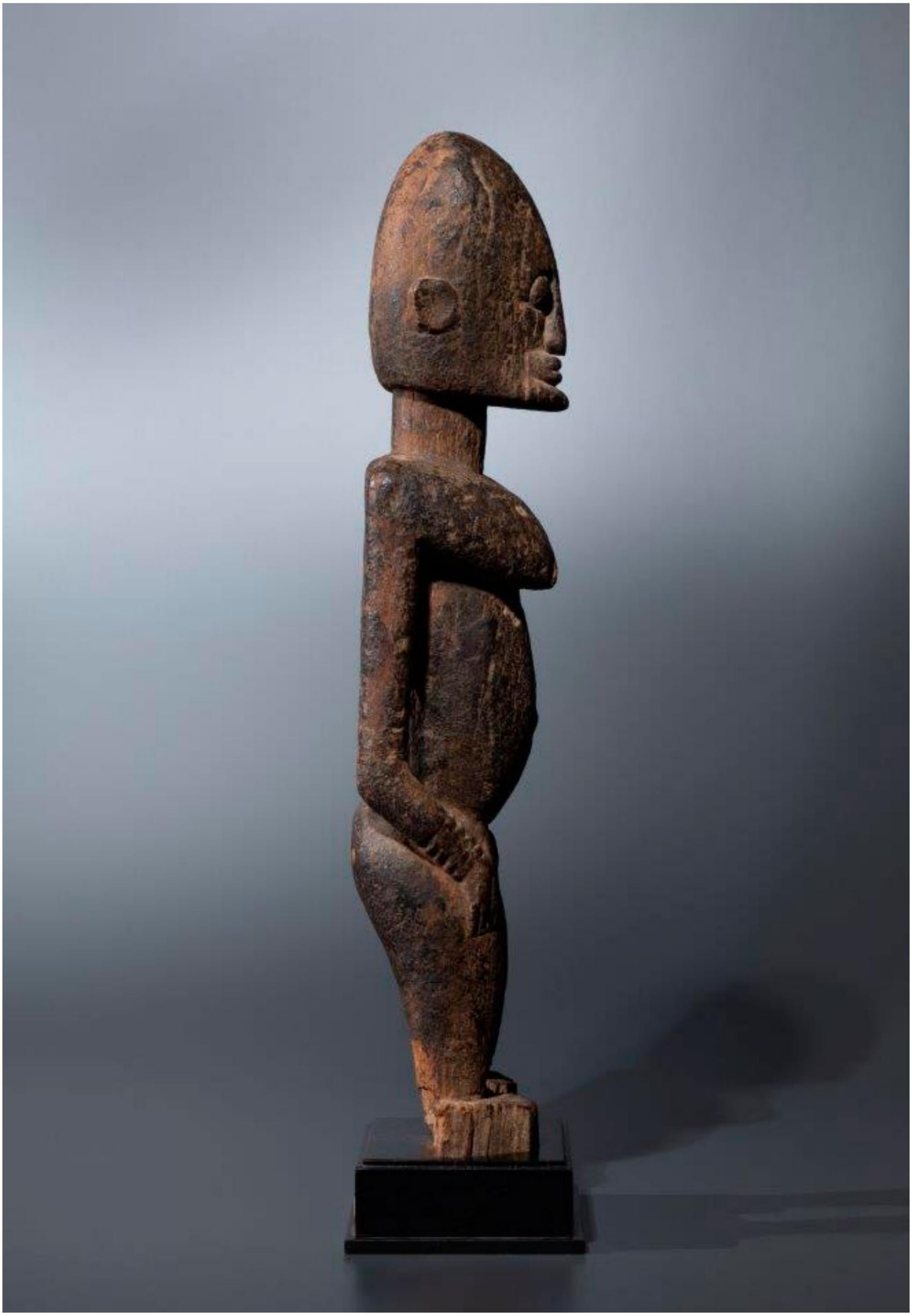

10

DOGON STATUE

Statue
Dogon
Mali
19th century
Wood

Height: 50 cm
Provenance:
Stuart Bart, New York
Private collection, Spain
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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Most Dogon sculptures are associated with ancestor cults. They serve as a support for initiation and explanation of the world. They are generally sculpted for a particular use or for a family.

This exceptional example of Dogon sculpture represents a character in the conventional pose of the statuary of this people. The strength of this artwork is supported not only by its hieratic construction, but also by its cylindrical body of elongated shapes and arms detached from the long chest. The hands are directed towards the lower abdomen. All this gives it a timeless dignity.

Precious oily patina that attests to the use of this effigy.

11

HOPI KACHINA

Sio Hemis Katsina – New Corn Katsina doll
Possibly the work of Hopi carver Jimmie (Kootshongsie) Koots (1915-1996)
Hopi
Arizona, USA
Mid 20th century
Carved wood (cottonwood), pigments
Height: 17 cm
Provenance:
Ex collection Nancy R. Florsheim, Lake Forest, Illinois
Ex Bonhams, Native American Art, San Francisco, June 2016 lot 10
Ex collection Galerie Flak, Paris
Ex collection Didier Robin, Paris, acquired above
Price: 6.000 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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Katsina dolls (or katsinam) represent spirits or gods from the pantheon of the Pueblo peoples in the American Southwest. Given to children, katsina dolls constituted a teaching tool allowing them to familiarize themselves with the spiritual world and perpetuating knowledge of the founding myths on which their society was based.

This doll represents the New Corn kachina or Hemis Katsina.

In the Hopi pantheon, this Kachina spirit is particularly important. It represents ripening corn. It is a prayer for moisture and rain which will help corn shoots grow in the season. It is one of the most beautiful kachinas. Its many symbols are associated with the desire for rain.

The Hemis Kachina is most often used for the Niman or Home-Going Ceremony when the kachinas leave the Mesas for six months. It is one of the most appropriate kachinas for this farewell, as it is the first kachina to bring mature corn to the people, indicating that the corn crop is assured.

They style of the doll can be attributed to Jimmie Koots. A key Hopi figure, Jimmie Koots (full name James Kootshongsie) is one of the major artists who revived the Hopi tradition of Kachina carving in the mid-20th century.

12

OWO FIGURE

Figure
Yoruba
Nigeria
Ivory
Height: 12 cm
Price: 3.500 euros

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13

KEREWA BELT

Belt
Kerewa
Homobawi Village, Kikori River,
Papuan Gulf, PNG, Melanesia
19th/20th century
Bark with lime highlights
26 cm x 21,6 cm x 7 cm
Publication:
Ill. : Meyer, Anthony JP : OCEANIC ART / OZEANISCHE KUNST / ART OCÉANIEN. Könemann Verlag, Cologne, 1995,
fig. 104, p. 118.
Price: 2.600 euros

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14

MAORI *KOTIATE PARAOA*

Club
Maori
New Zealand
Early 19th Century
Whalebone, shell
Length: 39,5 cm
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Finch & Co
www.finch-and-co.co.uk
E.: enquiries@finch-and-co.co.uk
T.: +44 (0)7768 236921

A very fine Maori whalebone Kotiate Paraoa of exceptional size, superb colour and patina through use.

15

SEPIK SHIELD

Marine War Shield
Kumba tapei, Western Highlands,
Jimi valley province
153 cm x 63 cm x 16 cm
Provenance:
Todd Barlin
Jolika collection
Publication:
'New Guinea Highlands Art From the Jolika Collection'
Price on request

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16

MONPA MASK

Mask
Monpa
Bhutan
19th century
Wood
Height: 10 cm
Provenance:
Mort Golub
Wasim Zaman
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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Miniature mask of a wrathful deity.
Superb quality, very early, frightening and charming at the same time!

17

MUMUYE FIGURE

Ritual figure
Mumuye
Nigeria
Early 20th century
Carved wood and metal
Height: 55,5 cm
Publication:
« Mumuye », François Neyt, 2006, page 105
TAS exclusive price: 2.500 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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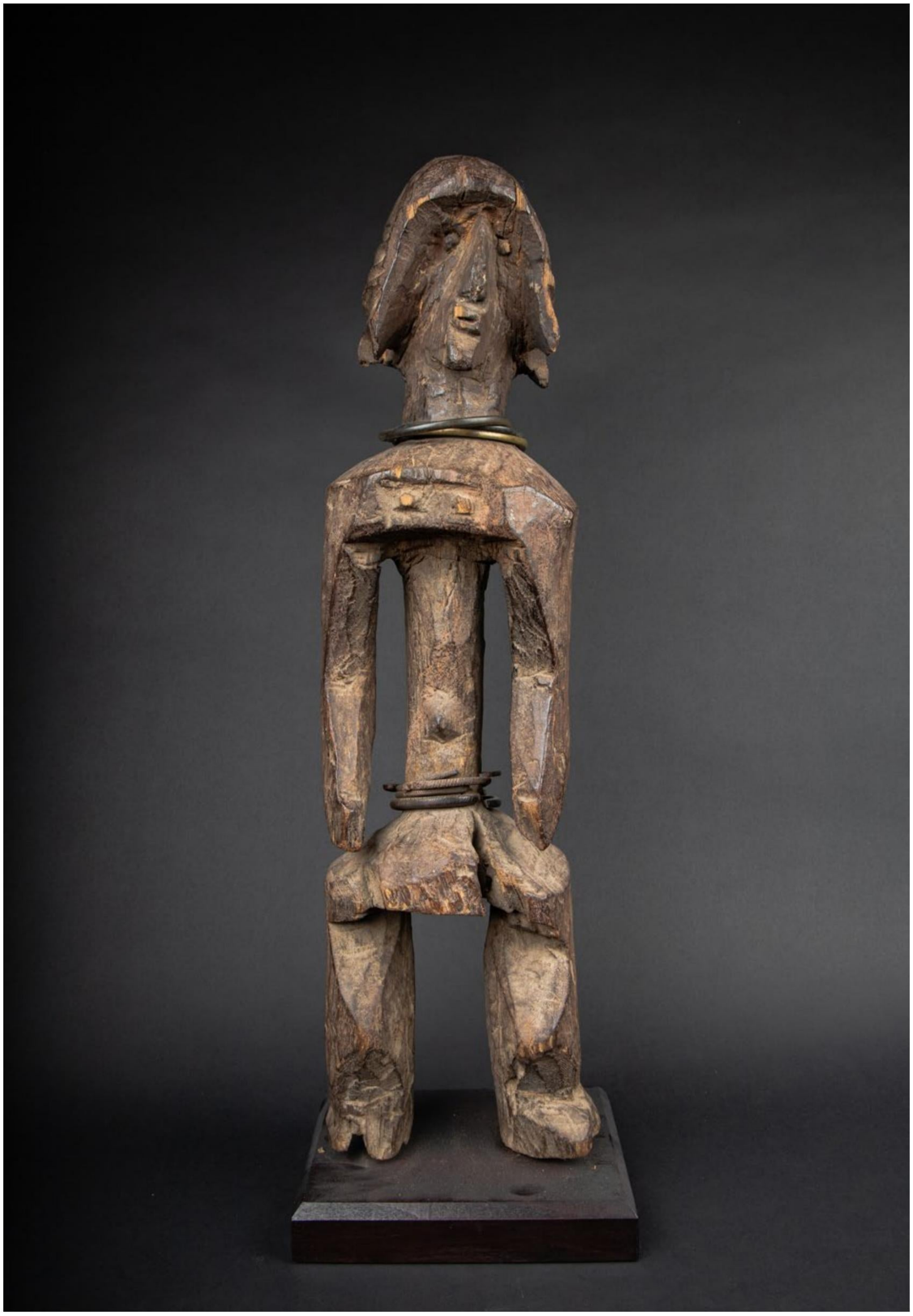
The Mumuye, a people of farmers numbering approximately 400,000 individuals, inhabit the foothills of the Shebshi Mountains in a remote region near the banks of the Benue River in northeastern Nigeria near the border with Cameroon. In their religious practices, the Mumuye used figures known as Iagalagana.

Jacques Kerchache in *L'Art Africain*, 1988, notes: ""[Mumuye] statuary does not depict ancestors but rather incarnates tutelary spirits. Yet, statues reinforce the status and prestige of their owner who, as he holds them in his hands, has a dialogue with them and thus ensures his personal protection.""

According to Belgian anthropologist Jan Strybol (""Les Mumuye"" in *Arts du Nigeria: Collection du Musée des Arts d'Afrique et d'Océanie* - 1997), figurative sculpture enhanced the influence and reputation of leaders and religious specialists in Mumuye society by furthering their efforts to predict the future, heal the sick, and make rain fall.



18

TELLEM FIGURE

Figure
Dogon
Mali
Wood
Height: 23 cm
Price: 3.200 euros

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19

PORTRAIT OF PLAINS INDIANS WARRIORS

Original photogravure from "The Vanishing Race: The Last Great Indian Council" by Joseph K. Dixon.
The Final Trail
Wanamaker Expeditions, USA
1908-1913
15 cm x 11.5 cm
TAS exclusive price: 350 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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This photograph of Plains warriors in full regalia is an original photogravure by photographer Joseph K. Dixon, taken from his book ""The Vanishing Race: The Last Great Indian Council,"" Wanamaker Expeditions 1908-1913, published in 1913.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Lewis Rodman Wanamaker (1863 - 1928), heir to the founders of the Wanamaker department stores in Philadelphia and an advocate for the rights of Native Americans to gain citizenship in the United States, sponsored three photographic expeditions to the American Indians that took place between 1908 and 1913. Wanamaker was particularly concerned that the life and culture of the native populations, in the vocabulary of the time the ""vanishing race,"" would be lost to modernity and relegated to reservations. To serve his cause and raise awareness of the critical situation of the American Indians, Wanamaker financed these expeditions to document indigenous life and culture through photography, film, and sound recordings. For each of these expeditions, Rodman Wanamaker enlisted the former Baptist pastor and lecturer Joseph Kossuth Dixon as the official photographer and expedition leader. During the expeditions he led, Joseph K. Dixon took more than 8,000 photographs of Native Americans.

Dixon published them in his book, ""The Vanishing Race: The Last Great Indian Council,"" released in 1913, the year of the last expedition.

20

SONGYE FETISH

Figure
Songye
D.R. of Congo
19th century
Wood
Height: 71 cm
Provenance:
Alberto Costa Romero de Tejada, Spain
Private collection, Spain
Publication:
Art Africà. Fundación LaCaixa. Girona, 2005. p. 99
Price on request

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Songye fetish statues, usually male, stand on a circular base, have an elongated torso and hands resting on the abdomen. Their large head has a square or pointed chin, a half-open mouth, and a triangular nose framed by large bulging eyes. Accessories are sometimes applied to the face to fight against evil and aggressive forces and direct lightning against it.

21

NIONGOM FIGURE

Figure
Dogon
Mali
Wood
Height: 33 cm
Price: 2.500 euros

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22

CHOKWE BOX

Tobacco box
Chokwe
Angola
Late 19th - early 20th century
Height: 7,5 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, United Kingdom
Price: 1.500 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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The vast majority of Chokwe objects are decorated with geometric figures and motifs. As the Chokwé came into contact with Europeans as early as the 18th century, some objects bear witness to a European influence.

Prestigious and everyday objects decorated with figurative motifs are numerous, especially in post-1860 styles. Tobacco boxes, carved in wood or ivory, were created for the use of courtiers.

23

WIDEKUM HEAD

A rare skin covered head
Widekum
Cross Rivers area, Cameroon
Early 20th century
Height: 30 cm
Provenance:
Belgium collection
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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24

WURKUN COUPLE

Figures
Wurkun
Nigeria
Wood and iron
Heights: 39 cm and 37 cm
Provenance:
Private belgian collection
TAS exclusive price: 1.800 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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25

YAKA FIGURE

Figure
Yaka
D.R of the Congo
Wood
Height: 23 cm
Price: 1.800 euros

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